

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 appear to stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,253,193 to Ginter et al. Although the first sentence of paragraph 2 on page 4 of the Final Office Action only states that Claims 1-11 have been rejected, the Examiner provided a detailed analysis of a §102 rejection of Claims 1-15. Accordingly, Applicants will respond to a §102(e) rejection of Claims 1-15. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the features of independent Claims 1 and 7-15 are not disclosed in the Ginter et al. reference. Specifically, the Ginter et al. reference fails to disclose the decoding of license information using the ID information of a plurality of physical elements in which “the license information is partially decoded by a first one of said physical elements, and then said partially decoded license information is sent to another of said physical elements to be decoded,” as defined in the independent claims.

As described on page 10 (line 21) through page 11 (line 3) of the present Specification, one problem to be resolved by the present invention is to prevent illegitimacy overlooked in the case where the license is produced from the usage environment specifying physical element, where the usage environment specifying physical element is simply a large sized device, and part of the device is illegitimate. The present invention prevents such illegitimacy by decoding the license partially by each of the physical elements.

One example of an embodiment of the present invention that includes this feature is shown in Applicants' Figure 14, which is described on page 41 of the present application. In this embodiment of the license decoding process, the encrypted license includes, among other things, the ID's of the following physical elements --the storage device (device serial number 141), the medium (medium serial number 143), and the reproduction device (ID of reproduction device 144).

Briefly, when the correct conditions are present, the encrypted license information is partially decoded by the storage device 140, and the partially decoded license is sent to the reproduction device 144, which in turn decodes the license. More specifically, in this embodiment, the license generated by the license server 40 has been encrypted by encrypting the access control list (ACL) and the content decode key using the key K_p , which is the physical element ID of the reproduction device 144. The license has been further encrypted by using, as a key, the value of the exclusive OR of the DSN 141 and the MSN 143. During decoding, the storage device 140 first reads the MSN 143, and the exclusive OR is calculated between it and DSN 141, whereby the license is partially decoded into $\{ACL, K_c\}K_p$. The partially decoded license is then sent to the reproduction device 144, which decodes the license using the key K_p , which is comprised of the physical element ID of the reproduction device 144. If the access conditions have been satisfied, the content decode key K_c can then be used to decode the content, and the decoded content can be reproduced by the reproduction device.

In contrast, in the device of Ginter et al., license information does not appear to be partially decoded by a first physical device, which partially decoded information is then passed through to a second physical device for final decoding and use. Instead, full decoding appears to take place by referencing each physical device separately, without passing license information through one physical device to a second physical device.

Accordingly, as all of the features of independent Claims 1 and 7-15 are not disclosed in the Ginter et al. reference, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(e) rejection of independent Claims 1 and 7-15 and associated dependent Claims 2-6.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

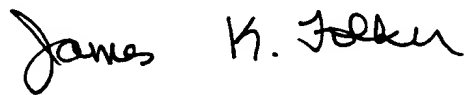
Respectfully submitted,

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